

I can attest to the quality of the learning experience that Saginaw Valley State provides its students, because I received a bachelor's degree from SVSU in criminal justice in 1977 while I was a Michigan State Trooper. As a returning adult student who also worked full time as a Trooper, it was particularly important to me to have accomplished professors and to be enrolled in classes that were academically challenging but also geared to practical accomplishment in the real world.

SVSU was chartered as a private college on November 13, 1963. In 1965 it was made part of Michigan's system of state supported colleges. The first class of ten students graduated in 1966.

That small but dedicated graduating class led the way for student enrollment that had grown to more than 8,000 students by the end of the millennium. International students by the hundreds now walk the campus.

SVSU is known for its programs in teacher education, an engineering program that is well-recognized in the area's automotive serving industries, programs in nursing and allied health sciences, business administration and the humanities, to name just some of the university's successful curriculum efforts.

In the past ten years, the university campus has grown by leaps and bounds, adding Founders Hall and the West Complex with its Performing Arts Center, Rhea Miller Recital Hall, Groening Commons, new classrooms and faculty offices, as well as conference facilities. Curtiss Hall, the new Herbert Dow Doan Science Building and the Student Center and Fitness Center were all completed. A Regional Education Center, the Zahnow Library addition, additions to the Marshal M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum and to student housing also were dedicated in 2003.

It would be understandable if the faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters of Saginaw Valley State University took a moment to rest on their laurels, but my understanding is that all of the new facilities and programs are instead powerful motivation for the SVSU learning community to continue to grow and to seek excellence in all its endeavors.

I heartily congratulate everyone involved in the dramatic success of Saginaw Valley State University. As an alumnus of SVSU, I take personal pride and pleasure in its forty years of achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering congratulations to Saginaw Valley State University on its fortieth anniversary.

MOROCCAN KING COMMENDED FOR HIS CALL FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following column which ran in the Washington Post last month. Women's rights are a critical component of any nation's development, and I commend Morocco's King Mohammed VI for his call to improve the status of women in his nation.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 16, 2003]

A KING'S APPEAL

(By Jim Hoagland)

Western democracies won the Cold War by shaking open closed societies and exposing their failures and crimes to citizens who then refused to go on living that way. The great political challenge of today is to induce similar change in Arab nations and other Islamic countries that do not respect the rights and dignity of their own citizens.

Think of it as collateral repair: The coming wave of epochal change must also be driven by internal forces, with restrained but committed support from abroad. The ultimate goal is reform within Islam conceived and carried out by Muslim leaders, scholars and civic groups, substantively welcomed by the West.

And that reform must begin with the role and rights of women in the Islamic world. A question posed last week in as important a speech as I have read recently makes that unblinkingly clear:

"How can society achieve progress while women, who represent half the nation, see their rights violated and suffer as a result of injustice, violence and marginalization, notwithstanding the dignity and justice granted them by our glorious religion?"

The irrefutable logic about the high cost of institutionalized gender discrimination was voiced by Morocco's King Mohammed VI last Friday at the opening of Parliament in Rabat. He then outlined far-reaching changes in family and divorce laws for the kingdom that would effectively lessen the intrusive reach of religious authorities into gender issues.

I am aware that speeches are given in the Arab world, as well as in Washington, to postpone or avoid the actions they describe. And in fairness to the globe's 1.2 billion Muslims, it has to be noted that all religions have been used at some point as a tool of control by unscrupulous political and religious leaders, and misogynists of all stripes—as Islam is used today far too often.

But Mohammed VI outlined highly specific remedies and committed both his religious and political authority to getting them enacted. And he repeatedly invoked the language of the Koran to denounce the unfairness of polygamy, marriage contracts, guardianships and divorce laws as they are practiced in his country and by implication elsewhere in the Muslim world.

As befits a 40-year-old monarch whose followers call him "the Commander of the Faithful" and who claims descent from the prophet Muhammad, the king argued that solutions can and should be found in Islam. But his words also implicitly acknowledged that Islam has been deformed into an instrument of repression in much of the Arab world and elsewhere.

Consider this: Two-thirds of all illiterate Arab adults are women, who are kept out of schools by custom, lack of resources and, in many places, by determined opposition from religious authorities. The Moroccan king took aim at a sickness that deprives many Islamic societies of the talents and productive labor of half their populations.

Morocco perches on the North African Atlantic shoulder of the Arab world. The immediate, direct consequences of Mohammed VI's words in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere may be slight. (They went largely unreported in the United States as well.) But the king's embrace of this cause represents both catalyst and reflection of broader change that is rapidly bearing down on the region.

It is part generational change as aging autocrats give way to younger leaders. Change is also being stirred by the deposing

of a uniquely evil regime in Iraq, a thunder-clap that is reverberating throughout the region, and by the pressures of the shadow war being fought between global terrorists and the U.S.-led coalition.

Mohammed VI's speech makes clear that he was not intimidated by the bombings in his country last May carried out by Islamic fundamentalists tied to al Qaeda. Nor does he seem cowed by the reactionary religious establishments that have contributed so much to the backwardness and turmoil now evident in Islamic nations.

An effective reform movement is straining to be born. In the same week the Moroccan king spoke, the Nobel Committee awarded the 2003 peace prize to Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian lawyer who leads the fight in her country for women's rights and democracy—two causes that cannot be separated in the Islamic world. This is a good example of collateral repair: restrained but focused Western encouragement of reform.

Mohammed VI provides a standard to which Arabs, Iranians, Pakistanis and others can and should be held. They are not being asked to live up to Western standards by improving the opportunities and lives of "their" women. This is a descendant of the prophet, not Gloria Steinem, who is telling them that they must change or fall ever deeper into self-destructive decline.

VETERANS DAY 2003 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support of America's 25 million living veterans. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are surely the best of the best.

More than 48 million heroic men and women have served in our military since the start of the Republic. Veterans have served this great Nation honorably during times of peace, and of war. It is appropriate that we set aside one special day a year to honor their service. However, we must not reserve this day for remembrance and then forget our veterans the other 364 days a year. Daily, we owe veterans our heartfelt gratitude and respect.

As the Congresswoman representing Florida's third district, I am proud of the patriotism and loyalty that the people of Florida have shown to this Nation—it inspires me daily as a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. There are nearly two million veterans in the state of Florida, and I thank them each for answering the call to service.

At this time, more than any other, we should stop and pay homage to America's veterans. Today's servicemember is tomorrow's veteran. Right now, there are 130,000 Americans serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On Thursday, the Administration announced a plan that would send 128,000 fresh troops to Iraq early next year. This plan calls-up 43,000 National Guard and Reserve troops for one-year tours. We need to promise these servicemembers that they will not be forgotten when they return home.

Congress needs to take action and fully fund concurrent receipt for the 560,000 eligible veterans. It is the right thing to do. We must promise this generation of career service